

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Bomar for carefully reviewing this application. Reconsideration of the present application in light of the above-amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-4, 16-38, 43, 44, 46-50, 62-88, 91-93, 95-98, 100, 103-106, 118-139, 141-149, and 152 are pending in this application. Claims 5-15, 39, 42, 45, 51-61, 89, 90, 94, 99, 101, 102, 107-117, 140, 150, and 151 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Objections

Claims 32, 88, and 109 were objected to by the Examiner for informalities. Claims 32 and 88 have been amended for clarity. Claim 109 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Removal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 39, 45, 89, 90, and 94 under 35 C.F.R. 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 3, 4, 52, 53, and 79. Claims 39, 45, 89, 90, and 94 have been cancelled in the present reply, rendering this rejection moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 16, 17, 20, 25, 26, 28-39, 44, 46-48, 50, 52-54, 59-63, 66, 71, 72, 74-82, 84-91, 93-96, 103, 104, 106, 108-110, 115-119, 122, 127, 128, 130-139, 141-144, 147, and 152 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Simpson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,695,065).

Claims 3, 45, 49, and 105 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simpson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,695,065) in view of Cook, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,121,337).

Claims 8, 13-15, 18, 19, 21-24, 27, 43, 64, 65, 67-70, 73, 92, 100, 120, 121, 123-126, 129, 148, and 149 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simpson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,695,065).

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Independent claims 1, 48, and 104 have been amended to incorporate claims 5, 51, and 107, respectively, which the Examiner considers to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 1, 48, and 104 are allowable over Simpson and Cook. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all matters in the Office Action dated May 29, 2008 have been addressed. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 03-2769 (2725-15703).

Respectfully submitted,
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